

MOBILE - Congressman Jo Bonner, R-Alabama, today issued the following statement following passage of the conference report on the Transportation Equity Act – A Legacy for Users (TEA-LU), a six-year surface transportation reauthorization which passed by a vote of 412-8. This funding will be used for the extension of Highway 83 north to Interstate 10.

“I am pleased the conference report for the Transportation Equity Act contains \$8 million for Highway 83 among the projects included by the House of Representatives, along with an additional \$18 million included by the Senate, bringing the total funding for this project to \$26 million. The extension of this important north-south highway has been a priority for local officials for many years, and this funding is vital for the completion of further work on the highway and for improvements that will make traveling on it safer for commercial and private vehicle traffic alike. Highway 83 will play an important role in not only attracting future industrial and economic development in this region of Alabama, but will also provide greater access to an efficient evacuation route in the event of hurricanes and other natural disasters.”

“While this conference report was a collaborative effort by many members of both the House and Senate, I would particularly like to thank Senator Jeff Sessions for his leadership and for his efforts to ensure that south Alabama’s interests were considered in the final version of the highway reauthorization.”

The TEA-LU legislation provides \$286.4 billion in federal highway, transit, and road safety projects through 2009. The funding would be distributed among such agencies as the Federal Highway Administration, the Federal Transit Administration, the National Traffic and Highway Safety Administration, and the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration.